(c) if so, the places where these depots will be set up and by when these will be set up; and

(d) the number of people in lakhs being provided employment in the handloom sector across the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) A proposal to provide credit to handloom weavers at reduced rate of interest is under consideration of the Government.

(b) and (c) A proposal to set up at least one yarn depot in each handloom cluster having 1000 looms or at places near the handloom clusters is under consideration of the Government.

(d) The general thrust of the handloom sector schemes implemented by Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms is to provide support for product diversification, design and skill upgradation and market access to the handloom weavers to augment their livelihood and increase their earnings. As per Joint Census of Handlooms and Powerlooms 1995-96, 65.51 lakh persons are engaged in weaving and associated activities in handloom sector.

**Training to artisans under SGSY**

249. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aiming to establish a large number of micro-enterprises in the rural areas for the benefit of weavers;

(b) if so, the areas identified for this purpose during the current year;

(c) where there is also a proposal to train local artisans of weavers under the SGSY scheme;

(d) if so, the modalities worked out so far for this purpose; and

(e) the amount allocated/to be allocated, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. No such proposal is under consideration of the Government. However, the office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms has been

implementing various schemes/programmes for the development of handloom sector and welfare of the handloom weavers. Handloom Development Corporation/Apex Societies/Primary Weavers Cooperative Societies/Eligible NGOs and SHGs are provided assistance under these schemes through their respective State Governments.

(c) to (e) Skill up gradation, both technical as well as managerial, of rural poor including rural artisans to enable them to take up economic activities for sustainable income is an integral component of the existing Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) being implemented as per approved guidelines. The State-wise expenditure incurred during 2006-07 for training under the SGSY is given in the Statement.

***Statement***

*Expenditure on Training under SGSY during 2006-07 (upto May'06)*

(Rs. in lacs)

| Sl.No. | States/U.Ts. | Expenditure on Training |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 55.38 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | NR |
| 3. | Assam | 56.53 |
| 4. | Bihar | 12.02 |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | 3.99 |
| 6. | Goa | 0.00 |
| 7. | Gujarat | 0.93 |
| 8. | Haryana | 1.54 |
| 9. | Himachal Pradesh | 0.05 |
| 10. | Jammu and Kashmir | 0.50 |
| 11. | Jharkhand | 5.42 |
| 12. | Karnataka | 7.80 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| 13. | Kerala | 4.90 |
| 14. | Madhya Pradesh | 19.16 |
| 15. | Maharashtra | 20.51 |
| 16. | Manipur | 0.00 |
| 17. | Meghalaya | 0.25 |
| 18. | Mizoram | 0.00 |
| 19. | Nagaland | NR |
| 20. | Orissa | 0.70 |
| 21. | Punjab | 0.89 |
| 22. | Rajasthan | 0.40 |
| 23. | Sikkim | 0.00 |
| 24. | Tamil Nadu | 6.72 |
| 25. | Tripura | 10.84 |
| 26. | Uttar Pradesh | 67.04 |
| 27. | Uttaranchal | 2.09 |
| 28. | West Bengal | 40.67 |
| 29. | A&N Islands | NR |
| 30. | D&N Haveli | NR |
| 31. | Daman & Diu | 0.00 |
| 32. | Lakshadweep | 0.00 |
| 33. | Pondicherry | NR |
| | TOTAL : | 318.35 |

NR—Not Reported